

# NEWS

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES AMERICAN INDIAN LIVESTOCK FEED PROGRAM**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1997--Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced today that a new livestock feed program will be implemented to target American Indian Tribes for emergency livestock feed assistance.

The program will cover 1997 and 1998 crop-year livestock feed losses due to unfavorable weather conditions such as extreme winter weather or drought. \$4 million will be available annually for 2 years, not to exceed \$8 million total.

Funds for the American Indian Livestock Feed Program will be made available from the funds received from the sale of grain previously held in the Disaster Reserve.

Glickman said, "A large percentage of American Indian livestock producers reside in communities where the Department has had difficulty coordinating programs to meet the needs and financial constraints of American Indians. This factor, in addition to cultural differences, make it difficult for members of these communities to qualify for assistance under other USDA programs. Targeting these funds will provide much-needed financial assistance to a previously under-served group of livestock producers."

The new American Indian Livestock Feed Program will serve as a replacement for the Indian Acute Distress Donation Program which was suspended in 1996. The American Indian Livestock Feed Program will more effectively serve Indian producers than previous livestock feeding programs by making direct cash payments instead of grain donations.

Eligible producers will be determined by tribal authority. Eligible livestock includes all livestock historically eligible under previous feeding programs.

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